



New Mexico Horse Council
P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87184



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FALL/WINTER 2008

“ ‘You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink’ is an old saying that is not exactly true, because anybody that’s ever been around horses would know if the horse didn’t want to go to water then it wouldn’t” - Anonymous

Calendar

December 2008: Happy Holidays! No Board of Directors meeting. Nominations for Horse Person of the year due by December 30.

2009 - Happy New Year!

January 17 (Saturday): NMHC Annual Meeting, Election of Board Members, Awards and Recognitions.

January 20 (Tuesday) 12:00 Noon: 2009 New Mexico Legislative session begins.

February 2 (Monday) 6:30 PM. First 2009 NMHC Board meeting, election of officers, Place TBA.

February 19: Deadline for introduction of legislation for the 2009 session. (Session ends at noon March 21.)

- **Brought a horse** to the State Fair Booth in September, or showcased your horse group or activity, or helped spread the good word about horses in New Mexico;
- **Joined Committees**, attended meetings or hearings, wrote letters, emailed, telephoned state, county or city officials or legislators expressing concerns;
- **Notified NMHC** about current and potential problems for the horse industry;
- **Donated** time, materials, expertise to Council projects or other horse activities;
- **Supported** groups putting on breed shows, horse sport events, rodeo, horse racing; building trails and keeping them open to horses; working on the “unwanted horse” situation in the current economy;

The **New Mexico Horse Council** could not exist without you. **Horses** in New Mexico are better off for your actions. We hope you found time to ride, drive, train, show, admire and enjoy your own horses!

Thank You! If You:

- **Joined** the Horse Council in 2008 as an individual, organization or commercial member;
- **Added** a donation to that dues check;
- **Helped** that bottom line by joining as a lifetime individual member (now 19);
- **Served** as a director and/or officer;
- **Purchased** chances or raffle tickets for our two fundraisers;
- **Showed** at “Horses In Action” in May;
- **Participated** in “Horsin’ Around, an Equestrian Emporium” in August as a **Vendor, Clinician, Organizer, Helper** or donated to the Silent Auction;

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Directors Needed

The Annual Meeting was formerly held in November or December, but the holidays make planning difficult and the meeting has been shifted to January. Membership and directors' terms are on the calendar year; directors (who must be individual or life members of the Horse Council) serve three year terms. Since we have vacancies on the fifteen member Board, there are many spots open! Terms end in **2008** for Eldon Reyer, Valerie Cole, Cathy Chapel and Elsie Shollenbarger. Jan Henfling and Kristin Darnell were elected to terms ending in **2009**, and Maura Lewiecki and Nancy Searles to terms ending in **2010**. Our other directors (David Kreger, Phil Reppert, Harry Touloumis and Lori Walton) were appointed to partial terms.

As you can see, you can make a difference by running for a Board position. You should be able to attend a majority of the meetings. And either be committed to help with existing projects or be prepared to introduce and support a new direction. Currently, directors meet on the first Monday of most months, at a director's house or at a restaurant. We have tried with limited success to have directors participate by telephone, and otherwise support a statewide rather than an Albuquerque horse council. To this end, we've had 2008 meetings in the far South Valley, the North Valley, Corrales and the East Mountains. It's a good group and needs you! Let us know before the annual meeting if possible – but nominations will be taken then as well. Contrary to the Bylaws posted on our web site, the membership voted in July 2007 to change Article III, Section C, Voting, Part 2 to prohibit proxy votes.

2008 Annual Meeting January 17, 2009

Place: Quarters BBQ Restaurant, 3700 Ellison Drive NW, Albuquerque 87114 (Same as last year, in the private room)

Time: Shake & Howdy and Food served after 6:00PM, Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

Cost: \$ 20.00 per person includes appetizers, platters of pork and beef ribs, links and chicken; potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, fries, onion rings, toast, soft drinks AND tax and gratuity.

At the last Annual Meeting, we heard from some members who were vegetarians, or wanted to attend the meeting but not eat, or who wanted to order adult beverages. You may order off the regular menu and pay your server, or order drinks from the bar and pay for them, or come and not eat – but please let us know, so we can figure the dinner charges correctly and see that you have, literally, a place at the table.

Door Prizes: You will get a ticket for drawings.

Agenda will include a review of the year, approval of the 2009 dues structure (directors suggest an increase), announcing Certificates of Appreciation and the Horse Person of the Year, and electing Directors.

The Annual Meeting is open and all are welcome, but only members may vote – one vote per individual or life member or business, and two delegate votes per organization.

A current list of members (names only for individual members – we don't release other information) and a complete membership list of clubs and businesses is published in this newsletter. Questions? Call 345-8959.

This newsletter, as the *official notice* of the Annual Meeting, is sent to members more than thirty days in advance of the meeting date by U.S. Mail as required under NMHC Bylaws.

Please call for reservations (345-8959, leave a message) or email (valcole@flash.net) or send a check for attendees x \$20.00 each to NM Horse Council, P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87184.

Awards Nominations

Any additions to our list of those deserving Certificates of Appreciation? Let us know. And do you have a nomination for Horse Person of the Year? (Past winners: Karen Reyer, Elsie Shollenbarger, Melanie Scholer, Suzanne Norton Jones, Blair Darnell, Val Cole.) Send by Dec. 30.





2008 Individual Members

★ = Lifetime Member
(D) = NMHC Director

Ralph Abeyta
 Heidi Anderson
 Helene Asmis
 Rob Atchley ★
 Jennifer Averill
 William Averill
 David Baca Jr.
 Carolyn Bader
 Kale Batsell
 Mern Bedsworth
 Jennifer Bedsworth ★
 Evalyn Bemis
 Susan Blakely ★
 Nancy Bonadeo
 Jackie Bouker
 Carl Bradley
 D.K. Brown
 Tom Brunton
 Debbie Bulcock
 Mitch Burkdoll
 David Bushmire
 Sue Cannon
 Ben Carrillo
 Patty Carroll ★
 Cathy Chapel ★ (D)
 Jane Chavez
 Sue Clark-Sorger
 Terry Coburn
 Bain Cochran
 Kay Coen
 Randy Cole ★
 Valerie Cole ★ (D)
 D.J. Collins ★
 Hilary Compton
 Rusty Cook ★ (D)
 Martin Cook ★
 Dan Cooksey
 David Copher ★
 Kenny Corazza
 Nick Cordasco
 Margo Cox-Townsend
 Sue Crazy Horse
 Lillian Creel
 John R. Cullen

Judith Cumberworth
 Blair Darnell
 Kristin Darnell (D)
 Carol Ditmanson
 Linda Dowling
 Roger Downey
 Kim Duran
 Anna Riggs Eader
 Sharon Eastman
 B.J. Elcock
 Linda Ettling
 Dr. Jim Fallen
 Kathy Falter
 June Anne Fannell
 Sally Fish
 Winnie Fitch
 Christina Fleming
 Bill French
 Annette Gonzales
 Regina Guest-Rupert ★
 Alison Haxton
 Jan Henfling (D)
 Eileen Henry
 Vernon Hershberger
 Chris Hoden
 Deborah Hollis
 Paula Holmes
 Anne Irete
 Bob James
 Suzanne Norton Jones
 Donna Ketcheson
 Jeff Kokos
 Jan Koltunuk
 David Kreger (D)
 Matt Kwapich
 Judy Larson
 Dawn Lashley
 Maura Lewiecki (D)
 Kristy Lindsey
 Jim Luckie
 Lilia Luman
 Bonnie Mamp
 Elizabeth McElvain ★
 Sally McGrath
 Nance McManus ★
 Joanie McSweeney
 Elaine Morrell
 Jene Moseley

James A. Nance
 Marilyn Novat
 Ethel Ortenburger
 Tonia Pena
 Cathy Potts
 Judy Rector
 Philip Reppert (D)
 Eldon Reyer ★ (D)
 Karen Reyer ★
 Mike Riegger
 P Riley
 Jennifer Rios
 Jim Roberts
 John Roberts
 Sharalon Runyon
 Alpha Russell
 Mary de Santa Maria
 Melanie Scholer
 Nancy Searles (D)
 Richard Selby
 Susan Seligman
 Ned Shepherd
 Elsie Shollenbarger (D)
 Sabine Shurter
 Bobbie Stasey
 Mike Sullivan
 Nancy Tankersley
 Barbara Tellier
 Aija Thacher
 Janice Tichy
 Harry Touloumis (D)
 Barbara Treseder
 Mary Tyler
 Peggy Vensel
 Mary Jo Wallen ★
 Ann Mulhern Waller ★
 Lori Walton (D)
 Carla Ward
 Lisa Welter
 Lee Wharton
 Cheryl Wheelchel
 David Wheelchel
 Janis White ★
 Cathy Wilde
 Kelly Wilder
 Julie S. Wilson
 Donna Winton





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State Fair

The 2008 New Mexico State Fair was a success story for the Council. On Labor Day, fittingly, Charlie Poore brought and built one of his Quickstalls to lend for our display in front of the Horse Arena. Alison Haxton of Expo NM allowed us to add our tent to their huge tent order, considerably reducing our outlay. And every single Fair day was filled with a horse in the stall and people in the tent. Some of the horse shows were down in numbers, as were many other horse events this year, but quite a few of the Fair visitors came on in to the Horse Arena (and, on Versatility Quarter Horse day, the outside Roping Arena bleachers were full).

- **Friday, Sept. 5:** Horse Show, Hunters and Jumpers; NMHC Booth, **Baca Horse Conservancy** with Spanish Colonial Horses.
- **Saturday, Sept. 6:** Horse Show, Hunters and Jumpers; NMHC Booth, **Juan Tomas Hounds** (with a hunter and hounds).

- **Sunday, Sept. 7:** Horse Show, Hunters and Jumpers; NMHC Booth, **Baca Horse Conservancy and the Gonzales Family** with Hidalgo, one of the horses playing the part in the movie.
- **Monday, Sept. 8:** Horse Show, Paints and Palominos; NMHC Booth, Sue Bragg with her **Paint** show gelding.
- **Tuesday, Sept. 9:** Horse Show, Pintos and Buckskins; NMHC Booth, **4-H**.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 10:** Horse Show, All-Breed; NMHC Booth, **La Espuela Ranch featuring trail horses**. In late morning, Governor Richardson arrived to dedicate the new and beautiful Palomino Barns, and management suspended the horse show for twenty minutes so exhibitors could be spectators. State Fair Commissioners spotted Desirae Evans on her horse dressed for Hunter Hack competition, and invited her forward to “pull the curtain”.





- **Thursday, Sept. 11:** Horse Show, 4-H; NMHC Booth, **Equestrian Theater and Performing Arts Association.**
- **Friday, Sept. 12:** Horse Show, Quarter Horses; NMHC Booth, **Four Corners Equine Rescue** with a rare **American Cream** mare (the only draft breed developed in the USA). FCER also represents the **Horse Rescue Alliance**, a group of New Mexico rescues certified by the NM Livestock Board.
- **Saturday, Sept. 13:** Horse Show, Quarter Horses; NMHC Booth, **Four Corners Equine Rescue.**
- **Sunday, Sept. 14:** Horse Show, Quarter Horses; NMHC Booth, **New Mexico Quarter Horse Association.** Horse: QH multiple champion TeCe High Zeus, representing geriatric horses as well. He spent the day urging children to pet him from nose to tail, then start over again. When the trailer arrived in late afternoon to return him to Hensleigh's Quality Horses, he didn't wanna go!
- **Monday, Sept. 15:** Horse Show, AQHA Ranch Horse Versatility; NMHC Booth, **EAGALA**, the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Foundation. Magnet horse: a pinto saddlebred owned by NMHC's Nancy Searles.
- **Tuesday, Sept. 16:** Horse Show, Appaloosa; NMHC Booth: **Back Country Horsemen of NM, Santa Fe Chapter.**
- **Wednesday, Sept. 17:** Horse Show, Miniature horses; NMHC Booth, **Land of Enchantment Miniature Horse Club & Winona Kennedy.**
- **Thursday, Sept. 18:** Horse Show, Carriage Driving, Donkeys and Drafts; NMHC Booth: **Rio Grande Mule & Donkey Association.**
Note: The day was marred by a carriage driving accident in the warmup arena, spreading to the alleyways, resulting in injuries to both drivers and horses. Our sympathies and condolences to all those involved, especially Marie Johnson, whose driving mare had to be euthanized a week later after all treatment failed.
- **Friday, Sept. 19:** Horse Show, Carriage Driving, Mules, Draft Horses, Draft Horse Pull. NMHC Booth: **Rio Grande Mule & Donkey Association.**
- **Saturday, Sept. 20:** Horse Show: Arabians, Half Arabians, Saddlebreds,

Morgans, Hackney Ponies. NMHC Booth: **Savvy Horse Whispering, Bob and Tammie Allen.**

- **Sunday, Sept. 21:** Horse Show, Arabians and Half Arabians, Saddlebreds, Morgans, Hackney Ponies. NMHC Booth: **Savvy Horse Whispering.** Our raffle horse sculpture, "**Magic**" (created by David Copher), finally arrived from his world travels to find a new owner. Now that he is on display, quite a few more raffle tickets are sold. NMHC President Rusty Cook finds a child to pull the winning ticket, and the new owner is **Cathy Fenner of Cazam Farms**, a long time NMHC member and supporter. Cathy has extra space in her trailer (Magic is 5'5" tall) and happily paraded him through the Horse Arena, blanketed him in bubble wrap and took him home.

We particularly thank **Jean Rowe**, stall manager, for her help with the horses visiting the booth. We distributed instructions for unloading the "horse of the day" and taking the trailer to the Wyoming Armory parking area. But most days Jean was able to provide a trailer space in Lot 6, making life vastly easier for our booth tenants. She also dedicated a stall in barn SS where the horse could get some "down time" away from people. **Kaylene Graham** helped repair the tent after a weather event, and **Lois Seibel** and **Lillian Creel** in the horse show office made the passes work. And the parking guards were very accommodating with some minor problems.

Expo New Mexico

Expo New Mexico is the official name of the Fairgrounds facility, and it was busy this summer. The Governor's request for information (RFI) on "redevelopment of the Fairgrounds" certainly stirred up the horse community. We had seen little information on the announced new "world class equestrian center" at Mesa del Sol, south of the City and airport. In fact, at the so-called "pre-request" meeting, a staff member of the department of finance and administration (DFA), stated that the design process was "closed" but when the facility was built the Fairgrounds would





be redundant. NMHC members and others attended the **Governor's Community Meeting** on August 8, and many spoke forcefully and eloquently. We followed up with several pages of suggestions on improving the horse facilities and utilizing them better.

For instance, since these events were precipitated by the decision of the **Downs at Albuquerque Race Track** to move off the Fairgrounds and east of the city to Moriarty (removing \$2 million in annual lease revenue) we pointed out that the Fair owns its own racing license, and could race during some portion of the seventeen Fair days.

Since our suggestions were not accompanied by revenue sources, we were uncertain whether they would be considered. However, supporting revenues for some of the other proposals were quite nebulous as well.

A memo sent by the Governor's office resulted in this Albuquerque Journal headline on November 18: "Governor Shifts Plans For Equestrian Center To Expo". The governor has "abandoned" plans to build a state of the art equestrian center at Mesa del Sol and instead wants to put it at Expo NM. As it turns out, the equestrian center would force a revision in the recreation complex master plan – even though the horse community understood that such a center was in the initial plans. Although the plan revision was to be completed in late Spring, it was never offered to the City Environmental Planning Commission.

Governor Richardson has selected **CH Johnson Consulting** to help develop a community master plan, and will appoint a Task Force which will include a representative of the horse community.

US Arab Nationals to Tulsa

It seems that quite a few NMHC members made the trek to Tulsa in October for the 2008 US Nationals, and several have called or emailed opinions. In general, they liked the facility and the staff's attitude, with one exhibitor commenting that "Albuquerque will never get this show back". Quibbles were: the stalls were small, the arena with the patron boxes was *really* small, and some parts of the facility were not climate controlled. Letters in the Tulsa World

complained that the show lost \$400,000 and the facility, called "Expo Square", projects a 2009 loss of \$1.7 million. (Remember, in Albuquerque the show did not bring in profits to the Fairgrounds. However, the positive economic impact on the surrounding areas was cited as the reason to keep it here.)

More on NM Racing

It's been an exciting year, with a series of events beginning with the Racing Commission approval for Paul Blanchard's **Downs at Albuquerque Race Track and Casino** to move to Moriarty. This means that 2009 may be the last year for the Downs at Expo. Six racetrack/casinos are allowed in the state under the Indian Gaming compacts. Other established tracks are: **SunRay Park and Casino** in Farmington, **Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Billy The Kid Casino** in Ruidoso, **Sunland Park Race Track and Casino** near El Paso and **Zia Park and Black Gold Casino** in Hobbs. Since Expo New Mexico owns a racing license for the duration of each State Fair, when the Downs moves to Moriarty it seems that the total of six has been reached. However, several groups presented proposals to the Racing Commission for a sixth location, including Pojoaque Pueblo (location of the former Santa Fe Downs), Tatum, Raton and Lordsburg. After the owners of the existing tracks stated their support for the Raton location, the Racing Commission turned down all other proposals.

Moriarty Requests Funds. The city is requesting \$4.5 million from the State to complete infrastructure improvements needed for the proposed Downs move to Moriarty. Paul Blanchard hopes to start construction before the end of the year.

Permission sought for "interim" casino in Raton. The State Gaming Control Board will be asked to permit operation of an interim casino while they develop a proposed \$50 million casino and track off I-25. The stated purpose is to build a fund for racing purses when the track is operational.

Hello, Dolly. Over seven inches of rain (remnants of Hurricane Dolly) fell on Ruidoso on July 27, causing the Rio Ruidoso to overflow its banks and





flood portions of Ruidoso Downs Race Track. Owner **R. D. Hubbard** put crews to work removing flood debris that evening, and restored the racing surface less than a week later – well before the world famous All American Futurity and Derby on Labor Day weekend. Using his own funds, Hubbard “pulled off a miracle” according to Carl Draper, a two-time futurity winning trainer. Hubbard, who says he has lost over \$22 million on the track since purchasing it in 1988 (Source: America’s Horse), says he is committed to the track, the Quarter Horse business, and to rebuilding the surrounding area. The 2008 All-American Futurity winner, appropriately named **Stolis Winner**, has since allegedly tested positive for caffeine in his system on race day. A Racing Commission hearing is set for December 5.

You go, girl. A record eighteenth consecutive win for five year old **Peppers Pride** gives her the undisputed North American Thoroughbred record. In winning the New Mexico Cup Fillies and Mares Stakes at Zia Park November 9, the mare extended her lead over Citation, Cigar, Mister Frisky and Hallowed Dreams, all with 16 consecutive wins. Her owners originally planned to retire her after this season (with her final start tentatively scheduled for December 14) but have not yet made a final decision. Career earnings for Peppers Pride now exceed \$991,000, and she has raced exclusively against New Mexico-bred females.

More Racing Days in 2009. The Racing Commission has allocated 307 days of live racing for the 2008-2009 season, 14 days more than this season’s 293 days.

Race tracks in New Mexico, unlike those in some other states, do not join NMHC as commercial members – perhaps because we have limited contacts in the racing world. The Downs at Albuquerque, however, has in the past sometimes supported our Horse Fair with sponsorships. Also, when the American Horse Council helped produce the Economic Impact of the Horse Industry study, eight states including New Mexico stepped up to provide funding for a separate state report. We understand unofficially that the race tracks provided that funding.

Horsin' Around



An Equestrian Emporium

This year, the NMHC Horse Fair almost didn’t happen in any form. However, to “hold the date” at Expo, we produced a small “Horses in Action” event, with great participation by many groups. Unfortunately, like other recent Fairs it lost money, so NMHC relinquished the first weekend in May at Expo. But wait, there’s more...

Kristin Darnell, assisted by Nancy Searles and David Kreger (all NMHC directors) pulled off an entirely new kind of event. “Horsin’ Around” combined elements of a Horse Fair (vendors, educational seminars), a flea market and tack swap, and fun demonstrations with horses. Held at the Library Park in Corrales, it was shady and on the grass, and offered lots of things for kids to do. Kristin declared the event a success for the first try, and promised to produce it again next year – but they need more help!

Trails and Land Use

- 1. National Trails Symposium, Nov. 12-19.** NMHC Director Maura Lewiecki reports: The National Symposium is sponsored jointly by American Trails and the National Trail Training Partnership as well as many other agencies, such as the US Forest Service, National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation. Other businesses and professional organizations provided presenters and sponsorships.

Held every other year, in 2008 this symposium was hosted by Little Rock, North Little Rock and the state of Arkansas. The people were unbelievably friendly and helpful, seeing that we were shuttled around to mobile workshops, training sessions, demonstrations and panel discussions in the beautiful countryside. Due to conflicts, I was unable to attend several equestrian trail sessions, but I did participate in





many multi- or shared use trail sessions and a trail ride. In addition, there was a very early morning Equestrian Interest Group Caucus to get to know one another and discuss common issues. Among topics discussed were the threats to “urban edge” horse trails and the general squeezing of agricultural land. Strategies for working with Planning Departments and how to keep informed about development and infrastructure improvements were noted as being critical activities regardless of where one lives.

The **Equestrian Land Conservation Resource** was represented and I learned a lot more about how they may be able to assist with so many of the issues confronting horse people today. Jan Hancock, who wrote the [Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads and Campgrounds](#) was present and signed her book for me. This book is free for the asking from the US Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration. To order, go to <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/trailpub.htm>. Download an order form and send it in.

Note: Maura has passed all her exams to become a certified trails planner – she only needs to “build” a couple more trails out in the real world. Congratulations! Since NMHC lacks the funds to send a delegate, we are extremely lucky that her employer valued this symposium.

2. New Mexico State Trails Conference. Held September 18 – 19 in conjunction with the annual conference of the New Mexico Recreation and Park Association, NMHC was able to reimburse director Eldon Reyer’s registration fee for the “trails” portion. Said State Parks director Dave Simon, “This conference helped numerous agencies and individuals to collaborate on a future course and action agenda for trails in New Mexico. It provided a foundation to move forward and reconnect people and nature through trails development.” Keynote speaker Bob Searns, chair of Urban Edges, Inc. and chairman of the Board of Directors of American Trails, said that we are becoming a spectator species in the virtual world, and risk losing our connection to nature and to the outdoors.

Conference participants indicated a need to develop an interagency statewide trails council

with regular meetings, and to revisit the New Mexico Trails Act of 1973. More stable and consistent funding sources for trails in New Mexico are needed as well.

Reyer appreciated an opportunity to distribute NMHC’s newest brochure, [Equestrians And Multiple Use Trails: Design Guidelines And Suggestions](#). Some of the presenters on the subject of multiple-use trails seemed unfamiliar with the specialized needs of equestrians (such as a minimum height in a box culvert. We like our heads round on top!) The brochure was finished in late summer and printed in time for distribution at the State Fair Booth.

3. Equestrian Land Conservation Resource.

The ELCR has extended their deadline to receive comments about loss of land for horse related competitions to **January 15, 2009**. They call on all equestrians to respond to three questions: (1) The name by which the competition site or farm was commonly known; (2) City & State; (3) Type or types of competitions held, such as reining, dressage, eventing, roping, rodeo, driving, etc. Send submissions to info@elcr.org by 1/15/09.

Data received to date by 100 locations in 24 states reveal the extent to which competition sites have been lost since 1997. Among the competitions that have disappeared are Barrel Racing, Cutting, Dressage, Driving, Endurance and Competitive Distance Rides, Gymkhanas, Hunter Trials and Hunter Paces, Polo, Reining, Rodeo, Roping, Saddle Seat and English Pleasure competitions, Team Penning, Team Sorting and Eventing.

The ELCR is engaged in farmland conservation, trails access and sustainability, best practices for soil and water protection, equine economic development, and community land use and zoning.

4. Saving Horse Riding Trails.

In 1999, the US Forest Service began reviewing its trail system, beginning by changing classifications. This had serious implications for equestrians. Originally, Mainline (now “easiest”) trails, 30 % of the system, were designed for a loaded pack string, with 8’ clearing width and 10’ clearing height. Way trails (now “most difficult”), with a clearing width of 3’ to 4’ and a clearing height of 8’, could accommodate a ridden horse. Now a new





proposed trail system with five levels, Class 1 being narrowest and steepest, would mean that up to 50% of the trail system would no longer be managed to standards that would accommodate pack and saddle use. More seriously, local land managers would be given the ability to change a trail's user status or maintenance standard, or drop the trail altogether, *without any public involvement.*

The **Back Country Horsemen of America** attempted to work with USFS agency decision makers, but could not meet with them until BCHA hired an attorney. None of their concerns were reflected in the final draft of the trail classifications, so BCHA claimed in litigation that the Forest Service violated requirements requiring public involvement. In October 2008, the USFS met with BCHA and a number of other wilderness user groups. They also released an “**interim final rule**” and has invited public comment. Under this rule, Trail class 1 will not accommodate pack or saddle use, but a trail that already has such use will be classified as Trail class 2 or better.

You can still comment on this rule if you hurry. **December 15, 2008 is the deadline.** Mail to: Jonathon Stephens, National Program Manager for Trails and Congressionally Designated Areas, US Forest Service, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 1125, Washington, DC 20250. Or fax to (202) 205-1145. Or email by following the instructions at the federal rulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

NMHC members have participated in meetings on travel management plans in the Santa Fe and Cibola National Forest. Santa Fe will apparently still receive public comments at www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/travelmgt/index.html However, here is a recent situation in Cibola National Forest: our member **Cedar Crest Stables** (Don Romero) has taken trail riders into the Cibola for several years with an annual special use permit, paying fees and maintaining the trails he uses. Late this summer, he became concerned when the annual renewal did not arrive. Many conversations, questions, and meetings later, the permit has expired and they “may” renew it when funds permit an “environmental assessment”. Meanwhile, the horses don't seem to want to stop eating. An



NMHC director reports that he knows of five permits pulled in New Mexico for nebulous reasons.

5. City Officially Opens Trail. NMHC members were invited to the dedication October 13 of an extension of the North Diversion Channel Trail, running from Paseo del Norte north to Alameda and Balloon Fiesta Park. To our delight, there was accommodation for equestrian traffic. Jackie Bouker and her mount, Charley Horse, found that a ledge well separated from the bicycle path had been surfaced with a matting that is very rider-friendly. Although we knew that space had been planned for horses, the trail surface was a very pleasant surprise. Than you, Albuquerque! (Bicyclists can now travel from UNM to Alameda without ever being on a roadway.)

6. More Wilderness Access. Recently, **G.A.I.N.** (The **G**aining **A**ccess **I**nto **N**ature program run by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish), opened thousands of acres of the state's wildlife areas to “activities other than hunting and fishing”, i.e. hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. While the areas were originally purchased using excise taxes on hunting and fishing gear, this allows “all visitors to help fund wildlife research, habitat improvement, maintenance, development and operations.”

Here's how: Anyone over 18 may purchase a GAIN permit at any Game and Fish office or online. (Current cost is \$15 for a year running April 1 – March 31, or \$4 for a five day period.) In addition, one needs a Habitat Management and Access Validation (HMAV) permit (\$4 for a five day period) specific to the area you wish to visit. And you need certified weed-free hay or feed. See www.wildlife.state.nm.us for more information.

7. Ditches With Trails. For many months, a Ditches with Trails steering committee consisting of adjacent property owners, other citizens, association and agency representatives, safe routes to schools leaders, and planners worked to create a plan to create two pilot projects meant to provide a template for preserving the recreational character of the irrigation ditch roads and trails. The plan was formally presented to the **Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Board of**





Directors on July 28. . After hearing more than four hours of testimony, the Board voted unanimously and immediately to terminate the advisory agreement. They cited numerous email and telephone messages opposing the planned projects.

Many members of NMHC were concerned with the Ditches with Trails planning, and opinions ranged from those held by members of the steering committee to that of a Board member of MRGCD. All agreed that the Board heard the arguments fully, and most resented the fact that the Board halted the project without public review. We may not have heard the last of the plan, however; at least one legislator intends to follow up in the 2009 legislative session. Most riders just want the “ditch trails” to remain open to horses. We do see a change in MRGCD policies from the old days, when riding the trails just meant ignoring (with the unwritten agreement of the MRGCD) the NO TRESPASSING signs. For updates, check www.mrgcd.com.

[Note: The Rio Grande Trail project is ongoing, and Bill Turner, MRGCD Board Member, spoke to my neighborhood association about it Dec. 2.] He said the southern part of the project, “Phase 1”, has let contracts for trail construction. And David Certain, State Trails Coordinator, says the Rio Grande Corridor Study has been completed and will be available on the Energy & Minerals Department web site, www.emnrd.state.nm.us/PRD/riograndeconcept.htm.

8. Corrales Doings. The Corrales Recreational Ride was an organization member of NMHC for a number of years. Run by Lisa Miller, the ride through the village supported retention of horse trails. After a lapse, this year **Nancy Bonadeo** and **Vita Zodin**, assisted by **C.H.A.M.P.** (NMHC members are certainly involved in many activities) organized and ran a good ride on September 20. According to Drew Burr, speaking in the [Corrales Comment](#), they did a great job.

George Marr (longtime NMHC member as Cimarron Corrales and Back Country Horsemen, Northwest Chapter) says that Corrales now has a **Trails Steering Committee** and he is attempting to hold his own representing equine interests. He

wishes that more horse people would stay involved to balance all the bicyclists.

The fifth annual **Christmas de Caballos/Toys For Tots** parade was held November 23. About 100 horses participated with their riders, drivers and leaders, including sheriff’s posses, search and rescue units, the APD Horse Mounted Unit, and many, many individuals. Many were costumed, many were not; all showed off their horses in a parade route from the Fire Station to the Top Form arena. There, some of the drivers (I saw a pair of Belgians, the gray and chestnut Hancock pair, and a Friesian) gave carriage rides to all the child parade spectators. Marine Corps members led the parade and collected a farm-wagon-load of toys for their program.

9. A Ride To Remember. The 2008 FEI World Endurance Championship, a 160 km (about 100 miles) ride, was staged from the Terengganu International Endurance Park near the South China Sea coastline of Malaysia. 129 riders from 32 countries were invited to compete, and the US sent six riders. Only one US team rider (Kathy Brunjes on Theatric) and one US individual rider (Valerie Kanavy on Flash) finished, in 24th and 25th place, respectively. 127 riders started, 48 finished. Individual medals were won by Spain (Gold), Argentina (Silver) and United Arab Emirates (Bronze). Team Gold went to United Arab Emirates, Team Silver to Qatar and Team Bronze to Bahrain. The ride began at 5:30 PM and ran through the night.

Here’s what happened to two of our US riders: Early in the ride, a heavy rain storm caused flooding on the trail, but it was the bolt of lightning that finished off the team. When lightning struck a tree as Jan Worthington on the aptly named horse, Golden Lightning, and Meg Sleeper on Syrocco Reveille, traveled through the water on the trail, the horses received the shock. The horses were flipped end over end, dumping riders and gear. Fortunately, no one was badly hurt at the time, but the scrapes and bruises on the horses took their toll over the remaining 70 miles, and both horses and riders eventually withdrew.

American Horse Council

The American Horse Council represents the industry in Washington, D.C. by lobbying and





educating elected officials and by appearing before regulatory agencies to convey the concerns of the industry about problems and proposed regulations. Its volunteer standing committees (Animal Welfare, Horse Show, Racing, Recreation, Government Affairs, and the State Horse Councils Committee) meet as necessary and the Equine Species Working Group and Unwanted Horse Coalition are also folded under the American Horse Council. NMHC is a state horse councils member, and they also appreciate individual members (www.horsecouncil.org).

Since the previous newsletter, AHC has commented to the Department of Justice on proposed new rules under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The DOJ seemed to be interested in expanding categories including “golf carts, bicycles, electronic personal assistance mobility devices such as mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs “or any mobility aid designed to operate in areas without defined pedestrian routes” *whether or not designed solely for use by individuals with mobility impairments and to allow them on any trail.*

While stating the equestrian community’s strong support for ensuring an enjoyable experience for disabled individuals when they visit trails and public recreation areas, they asked that the DOJ recognize that many of us with various physical impairments regularly visit trails and the back country on horseback. Visitors include riders with disabilities recognized by the ADA and others with arthritis, heart disease or lung problems. It’s more fun when the horse does the work.

Another memo concerns the USDA release of the final NAIS (animal ID) Business Plan, *A Business Plan to Advance Animal Disease Traceability*. This plan can be seen on the NAIS website, www.aphis.usda.gov/nais.

In September, AHC reported that the “Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008” (HR 6598) was approved by the House Judiciary Committee. It would criminalize the possession, transport, sale, delivery, or receiving in interstate or foreign commerce of a horse or horse meat with the intent that it be used for human consumption. It would apply to the transport and sale of horses for slaughter in the US or into a foreign country. The



House Agriculture Committee requested sequential referral of the bill since it dealt with the slaughter of livestock.

At the end of October, AHC sent a memo to State Horse Councils from the AHC Board of Trustees concerning a “Proposal for a New National Organization”. More information on this proposal will be presented below, under the SHCAC.

Most recently (November 24), all AHC members received information on the *Unwanted Horse Coalition’s Nationwide Study*. All horse people are urged to participate in the survey (it takes five minutes) and we give more information below, as well as the survey email address.

State Horse Councils Advisory Committee

For the first time in many years, New Mexico was not represented at the SHCAC semi-annual meeting, this one hosted by the Minnesota Horse Council in Minneapolis. NMHC’s limited budget does not allow us to defray any delegate expenses, and none of the directors was able to attend. We have heard from other SHCAC members, however, and it seems to have been a very lively, and at times uncomfortable, meeting. Current chair Dave Howell has reported to the American Horse Council on a proposal to create a new national organization of state horse councils. He said that some councils feel their projects might be limited by policies of the AHC, and that AHC lacks staff dedicated to the needs of State Horse Councils since Nicole Lamoureux resigned in 2007.

At the meeting, Madelyn Murray (KY) gave a power point presentation proposing the formation of a National Association of State Horse Councils. (She has since sent it to us.) After lively and prolonged discussion, the SHCAC decided to continue exploring options with the task force.

Unwanted Horse Coalition Survey

From the Press Release: The problem of unwanted horses is being studied through a nationwide initiative of the Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) with help from equine associations, veterinarians, breeders, state and local law enforcement, horse owners, rescue/retirement facilities, and other facilities using horses. The first step is an online





survey – and everyone with an interest in horses is encouraged to respond as quickly as possible at <http://survey.ictgroup.com/uhcsurvey/>

According to Jay Hickey, President of the American Horse Council, “The downturn in the economy, rising costs of hay, the drought that has affected many parts of the United States, the costs of euthanasia and carcass disposal, and the closing of the nation’s slaughter facilities have all made the problem worse. But no one knows its magnitude.” Stephens & Associates, an independent research firm, is conducting the study. It only took me about five minutes, so please add to their database.

- Related information: See page 16 for a description of HR 6598, the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act.
- Wyoming representatives Dave Sigdestad and Sue Wallis have emailed “the horse industry” soliciting support for their efforts to convince the National Conference of State Legislatures to oppose “legislation that would restrict the market, transport, processing or export of horses, to recognize the need for humane horse processing facilities in the United States, and not to interfere with State efforts to establish facilities in the United States.”
- The USDA has distributed the Forum Proceedings from the daylong “Unwanted Horse Issue: What Now” session that was part of the National Issues Forum in June 2008. The NMHC copy may be borrowed.

New Mexico Legislature

The sixty day or “long” session, held in alternate years, will begin January 20, 2009. NMHC directors will soon send a letter and brochure describing the Council to each member of the House and Senate.

We are aware that Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM) and others, including Marcy Britton of Albuquerque, intend to support upgrading some animal cruelty misdemeanors to felonies. Animal Protection Voters (APV) also intends to create an equine protection fund that will provide financial support to “sanctuaries” and subsidize humane horse euthanasia and disposal.



They also hope to pass a law requiring horse owners to post a bond if their animals are seized.

NMHC will also be tracking trails matters and funding for the Expo Equestrian Center and other horse facilities. We hope we can count on our members to keep watch as well. Remember, we are all volunteers out here.

Membership

Speaking of those volunteer members, we hope you will rejoin in droves. A comprehensive financial report will be distributed at the Annual Meeting, but we are much better off than at this point last year. The much appreciated “bump” in lifetime memberships is a one-time thing, however, and we eventually hope to have discretionary funds to pay meeting registrations for our attendees, purchase directors and officers insurance as well as our club liability policy, and reimburse some expenses. A 2009 membership invoice is included in this newsletter and you are urged to join before January 17, when members may revise the 2009 dues structure.

Lagniappe

In Cajun country, they often use the term “lagniappe”, pronounced lon-yop’. It means a little present, an added something, in this case interesting fillers for the end of the page.

- Two Kentucky Derby winners, Alysheba and Funny Cide, now reside at the Kentucky Horse Park. At 11, Funny Cide has arthritis and is no longer comfortable as a lead pony, and Alysheba (24) was recently given to the American people by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.
- Horse.com reports that a medication protocol to produce lactation in “open” mares has resulted in twenty (of 20) mares producing milk and, when introduced to foster foals, most adopted and nursed them in minutes (the longest time was 20 hours). A great new program for healthy rescue horses!
- Molasses? Forget it. Research reported in Equus magazine says horses’ eight favorite flavors, in order of preference, were: fenugreek, banana, cherry, rosemary, cumin, carrot, peppermint and oregano.
- Longtime member, vendor, Horse Fair sponsor **Horsemen’s Feed** will help out your holiday shopping with a one day sale, huge discounts, **December 7, Sunday, from noon to 5 PM.** Check NMHC member **Dans Boots & Saddles** as well!





New Mexico Horse Council, Inc.

2009 Dues Invoice

Club Dues \$30.00 Per Calendar Year _____

Business Dues \$30.00 Per Calendar Year _____

Club or Business Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact Person _____

Tel. (area code), fax _____

web site & email _____

Individual Dues \$20.00 per calendar year _____

Lifetime Individual Dues \$200.00 (one time payment) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (area code please) _____

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Jan. 17 Annual Meeting Dinners @ \$20.00 each _____

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